

# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

NOVEMBER 1944



VOL. 89

No. 9

KEEP *Faith* BY  
DAILY BIBLE READING



NATIONWIDE BIBLE READING  
THANKSGIVING TO CHRISTMAS



# Letters from the Chaplains

## **Scriptures for Hospital Ships**

From Chaplain William M. Latta, Charleston Port of Embarkation, comes this word of appreciation:

"Thank you for the 16,000 portions of Scripture sent to the port for use on hospital ships. I am sure these will be a great help to the men."

## **Testaments for U. S. Naval Training Station, Norfolk**

Chaplain J. V. Claypool writes:

"We were made happy today by the arrival of the shipment of New Testaments which we have been awaiting a couple of weeks. We never needed them worse and were never caught so shorthanded. Within an hour after their arrival, some of them were being distributed to members of a crew which had marched to the chapels for a last-minute service before shoving off."

## **Guides to Bible Reading Helpful**

Chaplain Kermit H. Jones, stationed at Miami, Florida, in a recent letter tells how helpful are guides to Bible Reading to the men who are without a chaplain:

"I greatly appreciate the prompt response of the Society to my call for literature. My assignment calls for a great deal of flying in transports for many hours and then coming to small out-of-the-way landing fields for a stay of several days' ministry, so I know how much worth-while reading matter is appreciated. It is possible for me to visit some of my stations only once a month, or even in some cases every two months; and at other times those men are without a chaplain of their own. Your guides to Bible reading are particularly helpful in such instances, enabling the men to help themselves and getting them acquainted with their Bible now, so that they may get even more out of it in the years to come. Again, many thanks."

## **Pulpit Bible for Second Marine Division**

"The splendid Pulpit Bible, a gift from your worthy organization to this Division for use in our camp chapel, arrived today and has been much admired by everyone who has dropped into this office."

"Tomorrow it will be dedicated to use in our chapel, located on Saipan (which I believe will interest you), and will be set up today, the coral heads protruding from the ground having been chopped off and sand hauled from the beach to form the deck."

Sandbags will serve as pews for the worshipers. We hope the rough-hewn altar will be ready for tomorrow's service; otherwise a large crate will serve the purpose.

"May I thank you sincerely in the name of this, the most famous fighting (Marine) division of this war, for your generous gift, which tells of the Prince of Peace and his blueprint for a new world where wars will cease forever." *Chaplain O. David Herrmann.*

## **A French-English Testament and Gospels Needed**

In a letter from Chaplain William H. Nicholas, he states:

"Now I am in France and have need of your generous help again. I could use to great advantage one French-English Testament or Bible and one hundred and fifty French-English Gospel Portions. Will it be possible for you to send them to me soon? I am smiling to myself as I realize that St. Paul was really a stay-at-home compared with me, yet he had no American Bible Society to come to his aid. First in Gilbertese, then in Italian, now in French; and God speed the day when I shall make a request for some copies in English!"

## **23rd General Hospital Receives New Testaments**

In acknowledging a shipment of 200 copies of the New Testament, Captain Paul G. Ringdahl, hospital chaplain at the 23rd General Hospital, writes:

"We are most grateful to you for sending them. Soon this fine 'pocket book' will be in circulation among the service men hospitalized with this unit, plus others. It is a lamp unto our feet and light to our path wherever we tread, not least at the front. The service men carry it constantly, and peruse it daily. It is of inestimable worth to them as they fight on for victory resulting in a better world."

"We thank you, and trust that it will be possible for you to repeat your shipment soon."

## **Thanks for the Scriptures**

From Chaplain W. J. Kuhn, U. S. S. Reina Mercedes Station Ship, United States Naval Academy, comes this message:

"Thank you very much for the shipment of Bibles. They have all arrived. In the reading of the Holy Scriptures lies our surest path of progress to that Kingdom on earth which it is our constant prayer the Father will strengthen us to build. I appreciate more than I can say the work of your organization."



# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures*

Volume 89

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## "The Bible is News"

*Excerpts from a Radio Address*

by Francis C. Stifler

THE changing years have little effect upon the changeless Bible. It is the oldest book that most of us know anything about. With many centuries already to its credit, it appeared in our most popular English version 333 years ago, and there were more copies of that version circulated in the United States last year than ever before.

The Bible is always news. Anything is news which is of interest to a majority of the people. The weather is news because everybody is, and always has been, interested in the weather. The war is news for the same reason. Books are news to only a limited number of people until they become outstanding best sellers. Then their titles, their authors and often their leading characters become front-page stuff. In this respect the Bible has far outdistanced all competitors. It has been our nation's best seller every single year since 1800. Its phrases flow in the very blood stream of the English language. One out of every three names given to an American child is the name of a Bible character.

The Bible is news because it is not only the foremost book in America, but is the most widely known book in the whole world. No other book even faintly compares with it. I know of an author who not so very long ago said that her book, published in this country, had been taken over by a London publisher, and she had been encouraged to believe that it would also be translated into Swedish and Russian. Needless to say, she was elated. Any American author would be. But the Bible in its entirety has been translated and published in 184 different languages, including all the great languages, like English, French, Russian, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese. Besides that, the New Testament, which is the part of the Bible that makes it the world's Book, has appeared in print in 233 more languages; and even that is not all, for some substantial portion of the Bible, smaller than the New Testament but usually some part of it, has appeared in 645 additional tongues—making a total of 1,062 different languages in which some part of the Bible has been published.

The Bible is news today because it is playing so large a part in the lives of our fighting men. When young men face death they turn to God. Advancing years, in the kind providence of the Creator, prepare men to go with calm assurance through the portals to the great beyond; but men in their twenties and thirties, made to face death as they do in war, fall naturally into line behind the Apostle Peter when he said to Jesus, "To whom then shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life."

The Bible is in the news from Sweden. In that neutral country, where there has long been an abundance of paper produced, the great Bible Societies of Britain and America have just contracted to print 105,000 Bibles and 270,000 New Testaments in French, Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, Greek, Lettish, Polish, Rumanian and Serbian.

War-devastated people in Europe can get along without adequate clothing and houses, but they can't get along without food and water and medicines—and Bibles. For thousands of people in every country of Europe the Bible is a prime necessity. So the Bible Societies of the two great Bible-loving democracies of earth, Britain and America, are doing everything they can to keep the Bible in production and in circulation for the oppressed countries of Europe.

But, friends, there is a far deeper sense in which the Bible is news. The reason it has surpassed all other books in durability, in translation, in publication, in circulation, in popularity, is because it contains the best news that ever broke upon a waiting world—the news that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

It is because the Bible has been giving good news like that to men ever since the Apostles went forth with it into the pagan darkness of the Roman world, that it is the unrivaled book of all time and always will be the changeless Bible! Are you reading it regularly? Are you helping to keep it circulating around the world?



# The West Indies in Wartime

*"The isles shall wait upon Me"*

by James Innes

THOSE picturesque little islands in the blue Caribbean which we call the West Indies have been the scene of intermittent strife ever since Christopher Columbus first landed in Santo Domingo. That is hardly to be wondered at, since they are a series of stepping-stones joining North and South America, and moreover constitute a group of outposts protecting the vital Panama Canal. Because of this the German submarine packs long concentrated in that area, which became known as the graveyard of Allied shipping. So fierce, indeed, was the onslaught that at the height of the submarine campaign we were losing several hundreds of ships per month, and as a consequence the West Indies have suffered more from supply shortages and lack of shipping than any other part of the Western Hemisphere.

What has the Bible Society been doing to further the Christian cause during these war years?

The American Bible Society first sent Scriptures to the West Indies as far back as 1820, but it was not until 1882 that the work was organized on an agency basis, with headquarters in Havana. From that time the work has developed steadily, until today we have subagencies on each little island which supply the organized church groups and by means of colportage and other methods reach those who are as yet unconnected with the Church.

Then, too, this is one of the most cosmopolitan areas in the world. Consider that besides the independent republics of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, there are American possessions such as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; French possessions such as Martinique and Guadeloupe; and British possessions such as Jamaica, Trinidad and the Barbados, to mention only a few.

The three principal languages are Spanish, French and English. In this connection the most interesting item at this time is the translation of the Gospel of Luke into Creole. The official language of the republic of Haiti is French, for it was a French colony until it achieved its independence, but actually the patois spoken by the mass of the people, who are almost entirely of Negro descent, is Creole. The long and difficult task of translating the New Testament into Creole was begun some years ago by the Reverend H. Ormonde McConnell of Port-au-Prince, and the Gospel of Luke is even now being published by the Society and will be in circulation before the year is out.

You may very well ask, what effect has the war had on the religious life of the inhabitants of these islands? The answer would be that the war has had a profound effect on every aspect of the life of these people, and not least upon their desire to know more



*A Sunday-school scholar in Puerto Rico*

of spiritual things. Indeed, never before in the long history of this Bible Society Agency has the desire for the Bible and the ministry of the evangelical church been so great. Owing to the dread submarine menace after Pearl Harbor, supplies of Scriptures were quite inadequate to meet the greatly increased requirements of the various islands; and, to make things worse, one large and several smaller consignments of Scriptures were lost en route through enemy action.

With the very considerable improvement in the shipping situation, however, a record distribution is expected this year—over 200,000 copies of the Word—and that in itself is indisputable proof of the desire



of the people to have the Bible. So great has been the forward movement in the last few years that both the Bible Society and the various missionary societies are hard put to it to obtain sufficient funds and workers to meet their obligations.

Let us look for a moment at the kind of people we meet in these subtropical islands. They are mostly of Spanish, French and Negro descent, with intermixtures. The principal produce is sugar, coffee and tobacco, so the people are largely engaged in agricultural occupations of various kinds. Outside the cities and towns the people are so poor as to be considered living below sub-existence levels, by American standards. We naturally use all the methods and devices which long experience and ingenuity can devise to reach all kinds and conditions of people. Different approaches are used for urban and rural work, and in sparsely settled regions the itinerant colporteur and evangelist are employed. For instance, at the sugar-cane harvest, cane-cutters from near and far gather in the area of the sugar plantations, so that the colporteur is able to reach the maximum number of people in the minimum area; and in that way innumerable Gospels and New Testaments are bought by the laborers, who often-times move away to other parts after the crop is gathered in, and even to other islands; and in that way the good Seed is scattered far and wide. Then too, New Testament campaigns are organized in small towns and villages, church youth groups undertaking to go to every house in their districts with Gospels and New Testaments—perhaps with a prize of a Bible for the youngster who sells the largest number of Scriptures. This plan, with modifica-

tions, has been adapted for work among young people in schools, too, so by every means at our disposal we are seeking to reach our constituency.

This brief review of work in war time would not be complete without mentioning the distribution of



*A village scene in Haiti*

New Testaments among the military personnel of the various islands. Nearly 20,000 Spanish Testaments have been given gratis to the Spanish-speaking forces, while several hundred English Testaments have been given to the United States forces in the area, and 1,000 French Testaments will shortly be distributed among the military forces of Haiti.

The placing of the Christian message in the hands of these underprivileged people, bewildered and seeking the Light in these days of conflict and chaos, is of vital importance; and it is hoped that the work in the West Indies may continue to increase in the days to come.

## A Long Journey to China

IN NOVEMBER 1941, when Dr. Ralph Mortensen was still an internee of the Japanese in Hankow, China, he was chosen by the American Bible Society as its China Secretary. Not for some months did he learn of this until he passed through Shanghai for repatriation to America and met the Rev. W. H. Hudspeth, British Secretary for the joint work of the British and American Societies in China. In August 1942 he reached the United States. After a needed rest he was released to the Society by the kind action of the Foreign Mission Board of the Lutheran Free Church. Some months of very valuable service for the Society among the Lutheran churches followed. Then in October 1943 he began his return trip. Direct east or west routes being closed, he flew south from Miami to Buenos Aires, hoping to get a steamer for South Africa. The sailing of the steamer was constantly deferred, so he took passage on February 17 on a square-rigged sail-

ing ship which, aided by a gale, made a rapid crossing to Cape Town, South Africa. In the four months thereafter Dr. Mortensen crossed to Durban and reached India and Calcutta in May by steamer. Two months more of patient but busy delay, and a swift airplane passage "over the Hump" landed him at Kunming, China on July 8, after eight months on the way. He brings fresh reinforcement to the staffs in Free China, with their many difficulties.

Promptly on his arrival cablegrams and letters began to bring in observations and reports. In India he found 10,000 Chinese Bibles coming off the press. Arrangements for a second 10,000 were made; 15 tons of paper have been reserved for this purpose. Negotiations were begun to provide transport by truck over the Ledo Road as soon as it opens. In Kunming Dr. Mortensen found his old friend Secretary Rao of the Hankow office well and in charge, receiving Scriptures from Chengtu by Friends Ambulance Units, from Hengyang (now on the battle-front) and from Secretary Wong in Kweilin.



From Kunming Dr. Mortensen made the overland journey with the aid of the British Military Mission. By a cablegram on September 6 he reported approval by Chinese Christian leaders in Chungking of the plans for an Advisory Council in Free China. His last letter concluded: "I only wish many of you could fly out to Free China and see at first hand the many golden opportunities for service."

## Mrs. Harriet C. Stevens

**P**ERSONIFYING over one hundred years of missionary work in Burma, Mrs. Harriet C. Stevens of Hampton, Virginia, was born in Tavoy, Burma, on November 24, 1841.

After graduating from the Lewisburg Female Seminary she visited an aunt in Boston. While she was there a missionary's son, Edward Oliver Stevens,



Mrs. Harriet C. Stevens

a young student at Newton Theological Institute, met her and persuaded her to return to Burma as his wife. They sailed for Burma on October 5, 1865, serving ten years with the American Baptist Mission Board before they returned for the first time.

Mrs. Stevens started a school for Burmese girls wherein reading, hymn singing and Bible were taught, with fancy work as a big inducement. Mrs. Stevens states that she undertook every type of mis-

sionary work except preaching from the pulpit, adding: "The education of women was my greatest work, except, of course, the teaching of the Bible."

The results of Scripture distribution in this missionary labor were continually evident. Many con-

ဝရအသက်ကိုရမည်အကြောင်းတည်း။  
၁၆ ဘုရားသခင်၏ သားတော်ကို<sup>၂၇</sup> ယုံကြည်သောသူ  
အပေါင်းတို့သည်ပျက်စီးခြင်းခြင်းသို့မရောက်၊ ထာဝရ  
အသက်ကို ရစေခြင်းငှါ။ ဘုရားသခင်သည်မိမိ၌<sup>၂၈</sup> တ  
ပါးတည်းသောသားတော်ကို<sup>၂၉</sup> စွန့်တော်မူသည်တိုင်

*John 3:16 in Burmese*

versions were traced to the reading of the Scriptures.

When Mr. Stevens died in 1911 Mrs. Stevens returned to be with her children in America. The seven children were all born in Burma. Five are now living.

The picture of Mrs. Stevens on this page was taken when she was one hundred years old and shows her with her Burmese Bible, which she still reads daily. She is quite active for her age, takes a walk each afternoon, knits, goes to church regularly.

## Memorial Members

**M**EMORIAL Memberships in the Society may be created either by an individual or by a group in memory of a relative or friend, and open a way for a continuance of the loved one's Christian service in a world of need. Memorial Memberships created since our last report are:

Anderson, Mrs. C. Edgar, by her daughter, Mrs. Arthur M. Silber

Arbeiter, Mrs. Karl, by G. P. Milde

Cowling, Miss Mary Jo, by her mother, Mrs. Ada Cowling

De Rooy, Mr. John, by his son, Anthony De Rooy

De Rooy, Mrs. T., by her son, Anthony De Rooy

Duke, Miss Gwendolyn Marie, by Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Duke

Gross, Miss Marie S., by Idella M. Blume

Gebhardt, Mrs. William C., by "A Friend"

Gaskell, Mrs. Augusta, by her daughter, Grace T. Gaskell

Houston, Mr. Harry I., by Mrs. H. I. Houston and friends

Hatherley, Mr. James, by his son, Norman Hatherley

Janssen, Miss Carrie, by Mrs. E. R. Aukes

Klahr, Mrs. Anna Kirgis, by Rev. Herman A. Klahr

Layton, Miss Mary, by the Johnstown, Pennsylvania Ladies' Bible Society

MacIntosh, Mr. John W., by Estate of John W. MacIntosh

Montague, Mrs. Anne Carrington, by her husband, W. P. Montague

Meyer, Mrs. Elizabeth, by the Johnstown, Pennsylvania Ladies' Bible Society



Nerry, Rev. Will H., by Thomas M. Pounds  
 Nettleton, Elder Daniel, by his daughter, Mrs. Mary E. Leckie  
 Nettleton, Mrs. Daniel, by her daughter, Mrs. Mary E. Leckie  
 Oakley, Miss Mary Ella, by Gertrude H. Oakley  
 Parkin, Rev. Frank P., D.D. by his son, Harold C. Parkin  
 Paine, Mrs. Ada H., by her husband, W. B. Paine  
 Parsons, Rev. William, D.D., by his wife, Mrs. William Parsons  
 Pierson, Rev. H. L., by his wife, Mrs. H. L. Pierson  
 Pullen, Mrs. Elizabeth D., by Mrs. Rebecca L. Howie  
 Potter, Rev. James, by his wife, Mrs. Ethel M. Potter  
 Ruth, Mr. Isaiah G., by Marvin D. Ruth  
 Shedd, Gertrude M., by Clarence J. Shedd  
 Shedd, Lillie G., by Clarence J. Shedd  
 Tyree, Rev. William Cornelius, D.D., by his wife, Mrs. W. C. Tyree  
 Van Saun, Mrs. Cornelia, by her husband, Edwin Van Saun  
 Voss, Mr. and Mrs. Henry, Sr., by their son, Henry Daniel Voss

## Somewhere in India

**I**N ACKNOWLEDGING the arrival of some posters Chaplain A. Gordon Karnell writes about some of his experiences with the men in India:

"I have a good supply of Testaments on hand.

"In the pouring monsoon rains we left our area at 0700 and drove through the muddy roads to another camp to conduct our first service of the day at 0730. Our congregation consisted of men coming in from a night shift, mudstained and unshaven, yet sincere in their desire to worship; others were just getting ready to go out to their jobs. A few native coolies stood listening about the doorway. At times it was hard to make myself heard when a piece of heavy equipment rumbled past outside, or because of the thunderous droning of an airplane overhead. At the conclusion of the service we hastily packed our kit and returned in the driving rain to conduct another service at 0900 in a bamboo hut. We set up our altar, which consisted of a silver cross and two candlesticks placed on an empty crate draped with a white bedsheet. This was our monthly Communion service for the men in this area, and although there were but twenty-nine in attendance a most reverent and worshipful atmosphere was experienced by all. After the service we hurried on to still another camp, in which a third morning service was held. I was soaking wet from the rain through which we had just passed, and perspiring a great deal because of the intense heat. The men came trudging through the muddy area into a bamboo recreation hall, taking their seats reverently in preparation for worship. My, how I admire these men who came to worship even though the perspiration was just rolling off them. It is interesting to note that though we conducted a Protes-

tant service there were several men of the Jewish and Catholic faiths in our midst, worshipping God in their own way.

"In the evening a combined service for the colored men in this area was conducted in cooperation with a colored chaplain stationed nearby. We started our service as the sun sank into an open patch of sky, shooting glory in every direction as its broadening beams smote upwards on the dark clouds and made them a lurid yellow. The men gathered from miles around. A huge electric cross was placed against the motion picture screen and could be seen for miles around. It was a beautiful sight to see between five hundred and one thousand men gathered for worship in darkness broken only by the light of the cross. Above in the starry heavens one could frequently see the small red, white and green lights of our planes as they came in for landing. Sometimes as their landing lights were turned on it seemed almost like a heavenly light descending upon our congregation.

"The service was enriched by a public address system pouring forth the grand religious recordings received from the States. Our song service was enthusiastic, and I sometimes wonder how our organist produced so much music from the portable organ. Our colored quartette is the best I have ever heard.

"It is needless to say that when the day was over I felt somewhat exhausted, yet inwardly happy for this rich experience enjoyed in the land of India."

## Somewhere in the Marshall Islands

**I**T IS gratifying to print here a recent communication from Sergeant William C. Harris, a Marine Corps combat correspondent somewhere in the Marshall Islands. He writes:

"The natives of this section of the Marshall Islands now have new Bibles in their own language, thanks to Marines and Navy men who learned of their desire to obtain them.

"When we landed here in February we were surprised to see in many huts Bibles translated into Marshallese, also song books in the island tongue. The gracious natives gladly gave them to those who expressed a wish for them. Later it was learned that it is the custom to give almost anything a friend expresses a desire for.

"Lieutenant George P. LaBarre, of Yazoo City, Miss., the Navy chaplain assigned to this Marine outfit, announced that he would attempt to secure new Bibles in Marshallese for the natives and would accept contributions in any amount for that purpose.

"One Marine corporal donated \$105. A total of more than \$250 was contributed and Chaplain LaBarre ordered the Bibles from the American Bible Society. They have just arrived and are being distributed to the natives by the Chaplain."



# NATIONWIDE



*Let there be reading in every home*

**E**VERY Christian should read his Bible daily and should want others to do the same. The problem is how to encourage effectively such daily reading. The Nationwide Bible Reading affords an opportunity for a great advance. If it is fully carried out, new tides of moral and spiritual power should rise in America. By means of it we shall keep faith with our men on the fighting fronts.

The plan is simple. By a nationwide canvass of ministers and chaplains 33 passages considered to be most helpful in times like these have been selected to be read in the 33 days from Thanksgiving to Christmas. The reading of these by the people at home unitedly with the men and women in service in all parts

of the world will bring strength and comfort to millions. The nationwide character of the movement will encourage great numbers to join the Reading.

*The great task is not so much to get Bible readers to read, as to get non-readers to read these passages on these days.*

Those who are now interested in a program of daily reading will find this a great opportunity to encourage larger numbers to adopt more extended plans of reading already in use.

The Society provides suitable materials without charge—which it will send on request, subject to limitations of time. Please order promptly what you can use of the three items listed on the opposite page.



# BIBLE READING

## Thanksgiving to Christmas

1. Bookmark folders listing the 33 passages. One has been reproduced at the lower right-hand corner of this page. These can be given to your friends, who will be encouraged to read if they know you are reading the same passages too.
2. Poster—a beautiful piece of color printing 26" x 19", showing reading at home and at the front. This may be had in any quantity to be put up in railroad stations, post offices, store windows, elevators, school and church bulletin boards, etc. There is no charge for these posters. We only ask your assurance that they will be put up promptly.
3. V-mail letter form listing the readings. This should be used in writing to men and women in overseas service only, pledging to join them in reading day by day. If you promise to read, the boys will be quick to respond.

This issue of the Record will go to over 140,000 subscribers. If each one got ten others to join them in the Reading, that would mean, 1,400,000 persons participating. If each one put out five posters, that would mean 700,000 posters on display; and if each poster were seen by twenty people, that would mean 14,000,000 people reached. If each one who reads this article will do only a little, the result will be very great.

One of the most important parts of the plan cannot be mailed to you. It consists in creating throughout the community the proper atmosphere for the Bible Reading.

You will be seeing nationwide action promoting Bible reading by leading magazines, the press, radio and commercial firms. You can add to this process of creating the proper atmosphere throughout the community by talking about it to individuals and small groups, also at church meetings and elsewhere.

Above all, let there be prayer that the Nationwide Bible Reading may help bridge the long distance between our service men and women and their families, and bring them strength and comfort day by day, that new multitudes may discover the treasures of life in the Bible, so that the nation may be girded with new moral and spiritual convictions to guide it through the difficult months ahead.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

cut here and fold in center

### Helpful Bible Passages for Daily Reading

by members of the armed forces and people at home, selected by a nationwide canvass of pastors and chaplains as the most helpful in times like these:

Thanksgiving, Nov. 23....	Psalm 103
Friday.....	John 14
Saturday.....	Psalm 23
Sunday, November 26....	Psalm 1
Monday.....	Matthew 5
Tuesday.....	Romans 8
Wednesday.....	I Corinthians 13
Thursday.....	Psalm 91
Friday.....	Matthew 6
Saturday.....	John 3
Sunday, December 3.....	Isaiah 40
Monday.....	Psalm 46
Tuesday.....	Romans 12
Wednesday.....	Hebrews 11
Thursday.....	Matthew 7
Friday.....	John 15
Saturday.....	Psalm 27
Sunday, December 10.....	Isaiah 55
Monday.....	Psalm 121
Tuesday.....	Philippians 4
Wednesday.....	Revelation 21
Thursday.....	Luke 15
Friday.....	Ephesians 6
Saturday.....	John 17
Sunday, December 17.....	Isaiah 53
Monday.....	I Corinthians 15
Tuesday.....	John 10
Wednesday.....	Psalm 51
Thursday.....	Psalm 37
Friday.....	John 1
Saturday.....	Revelation 22
Sunday, December 24.....	Psalm 90
Christmas, Dec. 25.....	Luke 2

All passages are in the order of the tabulated votes except those assigned to Thanksgiving, Christmas and Sundays.

To complete the reading to New Year's, read Joshua 1; Psalm 19; Matthew 11; Exodus 20; I John 1; Hebrews 12. If you desire a schedule of readings for 1945, send request to Dept. BR., American Bible Society.

**To Members of the Armed Forces:** If the passages listed are not included in your Testament, borrow a Bible or ask the Chaplain to read them at Thanksgiving or Sunday services as indicated.

This is the bookmark folder—cut along this line—use it in your Bible



# Bible Sunday, December 10

THE Society has not supplied special material for pastors for use on Bible Sunday, believing it wiser this year to put all its efforts of this nature into the Nationwide Bible Reading. Pastors will see, however, in Bible Sunday an opportunity in the midst of the Reading to speak particularly about the significance of the Bible

as a whole, and about its relation to the living world and humanity's need of it.

Pastors who have not had the brochures issued for previous Bible Sundays, which may contain helpful material, may secure a copy of one of them while they last by addressing the main office at Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y.

## After Nationwide Bible Reading

Conserve the results. The Reading furnishes a great opportunity to encourage families to establish family worship and reading, and individuals to form the habit. If, in addition to plans already used in your denomination, you would like to have others, the little bookmark contains a suggestion for rounding out this year and for securing a schedule of a year's reading for 1945. The Society can also supply a schedule for reading the New Testament through in five months. Single copies on request.

If you have had particular success in encouraging reading and study of the Bible by your members the Society would be glad to know the methods you have used.

Will there be a Nationwide Bible Reading next year? The Society hopes there may. Something will depend on the experience of this year. We shall be glad to have your appraisal of the value and effect of this year's program after the Reading is over and you can look back on it.

The Society expresses to the thousands of collaborating pastors and other friends its warm gratitude for help given in so many ways.



## NATIONWIDE BIBLE READING

### Thanksgiving to Christmas

#### Suggestions on

#### HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

- 1—Read thoughtfully and reverently.
- 2—Read seeking a helpful message for the day.
- 3—Underline passages that impress you as you read.
- 4—Pick out one short verse for the day's meditation.
- 5—Set aside a definite daily time for reading and keep it faithfully.
- 6—Let your reading guide your living.
- 7—Enter the New Year as a daily reader of the Bible.

Additional copies of this leaflet may be secured free on request to

Dept. BR., AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
Park Ave. & 57th St. New York 22, N. Y.

## Congress Asked to Act

A Joint Resolution has been introduced into the House and Senate of the United States Congress designating the period from Thanksgiving Day to Christmas each year for Nationwide Bible Reading.

This bill is now pending before Committees of the House and Senate, and it is hoped that it will be reported out and acted upon in time to be of value in connection with the Bible Reading this year.

The Resolution reads as follows:

### JOINT RESOLUTION

*Designating period from Thanksgiving Day to Christmas of each year for Nationwide Bible Reading.*

Whereas fresh evidence comes daily of the strength, courage, and comfort found in the Scriptures by the men and women of our armed forces; and

Whereas reading the Bible will not only bring faith, hope, and courage to millions of people now disturbed by doubt, uncertainty, and fear, but such a widespread, thoughtful reading of the Scriptures will effectively repair the moral character and spiritual ideals which form the necessary foundation for an enduring democracy; and

Whereas it behooves us at home to keep faith with those on the fighting fronts by a steadily increasing devotion to the sacred truths and principles upon which this Nation was founded: Therefore be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the period from Thanksgiving Day to Christmas of each year is especially designated for Nationwide Bible reading, in order that "in God we trust" as an expression of our national life may hold new and vital meaning for all our citizens.*



# New Life for America from the Bible

by Eric M. North

**F**ROM time to time reports from the battlefronts have referred to bombing of our own ground forces by our own aircraft. Here is one of the cruelest tragedies of modern warfare—for men to be killed and maimed by their own friends. Through no intention of our airmen their bombs fell short of their targets and bitter suffering and sacrifice were caused.

Yet we are quite unaware how frequently this happens in another realm. Individually and as a nation we have had targets at which we have been aiming for many years. They are personal and national ideals, set forth by our most representative leaders; clearly stated time and again. But all too often we have missed the target badly. And our falling short has been terribly destructive to our own people, to our America.

For many years past a broad gap has been growing between life as we live it and life as we know it ought to be lived. We have nourished our material well-being with might and main. But our moral and spiritual ideals have all too often been neglected, even ignored. We have heard the preacher quote the Bible to us at church and then said to ourselves, "Really, you can't very well apply that kind of stuff to business, to the treatment of servants, to practical life." Again and again we have failed to take seriously the whole truth: full brotherhood, complete honesty. We have been starving our souls and we are the losers by the way we have been living.

But America was founded by people who, whatever their material disadvantages, were spiritually vigorous. One Book they knew, and knew well; and their knowledge of it shaped the pattern of life they made for themselves. Their tough spiritual muscles have made us inheritors of the measure of liberty we enjoy and of all its blessings. Surely the time has come for Americans to rediscover the significance for today of what one of our Presidents called "the rock of our Republic"—the Bible.

As a nation we are facing some very serious issues. If our spiritual eyesight is not keen, if our moral muscles are not in lively condition, we shall not hit the target; we shall miss our objectives, and our own side will suffer. Are we going to have the moral fibre to take "liberty and justice for all" and apply it, or are we going to miss our target and make it real for only our personal class, our race, our social constituency? Will we have the moral discernment to see the difference between striving for an industrial economy that provides decent living and working conditions for all, and demanding one that provides

dividends in the form of possessions or power for us or our group, our bloc? Will we have the moral dignity to say, "So long as men are enslaved anywhere, we are not free; so long as men are in poverty anywhere, we are not rich." What are we going to seek first—material satisfaction, or the kingdom of God?

If our actual answers are to be what we know they ought to be, we must draw afresh on the sources of moral and spiritual strength and discernment where they are at their greatest, which is in the Bible. The Bible, especially if we apply its teachings, creates an atmosphere in which it is easier to make the right decision, to adhere more keenly to justice and truth and mercy and brotherhood, and to gain that sense of the supporting purpose of God that will carry us through the hardships of striving for the right.

Do you want the inspiration of the moral purposes of God?—Read the majestic prophecies of Isaiah, the trumpet-like phrases of the Psalms, the glowing passages of St. Paul. Do you seek to understand the ways of nations, the forces of history?—In the Bible are the lessons of history for those men and nations who will give heed.

Do you want a dynamic plan for living your life as your Creator intended it should be lived?—Read the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels. Do you long for the personal assurance of a redeeming love?—Again turn to the Gospels, and behold how Jesus made the supreme sacrifice, that those who believed in Him might enter that lasting Kingdom whose Maker is God. And read on into the Acts to see how God works with humble men who follow the Master.

Yes, all the sources of spiritual vitality are in this great book. Hundreds of thousands of service men and women have been finding them as, separated from their families, they have faced utterly strange conditions of life. Many families have been finding them, too, as they have longed for the safety and return of dear ones. Some have found wonderful satisfaction when family and serviceman have, though separated, read the same passages together day by day. This has led to an occasion that bids fair to be of very great value to America—the Nationwide Bible Reading between Thanksgiving and Christmas, announced recently. The sponsors are a National Committee of distinguished citizens, among whom are ex-President Herbert Hoover, Admiral Ernest J. King, Ambassador Winant and Mr. John Foster Dulles; a National Committee of the presiding officers of more than thirty denominations; and the American Bible Society. It is pro-



posed that service men and women at home and overseas and the people of America all join in reading together those passages of Scripture which are most helpful in times like these. The passages have been chosen by a nationwide canvass of ministers and chaplains. The list will be widely published. A joint resolution on the matter is under consideration in both Houses of Congress. Large cooperation from radio and the press and from many agencies of all kinds is anticipated. Millions of copies of the reading list are being printed by the American Bible Society. The major problem of the Reading is to reach the millions of Americans who are not in touch with the churches and religious agencies.

Let us keep faith with our men and women overseas by daily Bible reading, and in the spirit and with the wisdom which the great Book provides let us strive to bring new life to America and to the world, that the sacrifices which have been made in our behalf shall not have been made in vain.

#### *From far-away Paraguay*

"Please find enclosed sum of \$25 for your splendid work amongst the many boys in the armed forces. This money comes from some Paraguayan girls in our "Home" for girls, who go without supper on Wednesday nights in order to have a bit to help in God's Cause. You will know best in which department of the vast armed forces to use this "love" gift amongst the dear men today who are giving their

lives for the cause of human freedom."—Mrs. Ford Hendrickson



*Official Army Air Forces Photo*

#### BIBLES FOR HOSPITAL WARDS

*Captain Urban F. Johansmann, Assistant Base Chaplain, Avon Park Army Air Field, Avon Park, Florida, presenting a Bible to Chief Nurse Sadie L. McGibboney. The American Bible Society presented a gift of nine Bibles to be placed in the Hospital wards.*

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## Launching the War Emergency Fund

**I**T IS one thing to decide to raise a certain amount of money for a worthy object; it is quite another to set about doing it.

Readers of the *Record* who are familiar with the fact that on July 1 the Society set out to secure a War Emergency Fund of \$1,102,000 for the year ending June 30, 1945 will be glad to learn that a plan has been agreed upon to go about getting it—and more, for the goal set is to raise the entire \$2,800,000 forecast as the emergency requirement for the next four years.

The country will be divided into twelve regions, and a like number of temporary field representatives will be employed and assigned as directors, one to each region.

These directors will endeavor to create sponsoring committees of influential laymen in each major population center. Quotas for each city will be established; meetings and dinners will be held in an effort to bring the need forcefully before the atten-

tion of those who attend. No doubt the Society's film, "The Bible in a Warring World," which was produced a few months ago, will find a wide use in this connection. Every possible thing will be done to discover new sources of income and make new friends, so that the entire fund will be secured.

The twelve new directors and some of the Society's present staff of District Secretaries and Field Representatives met in a three-day conference at the Bible House, September 20-22, to draw up plans and derive inspiration for the great task which lies ahead.

Friends of the Society will recall that the Emergency program now requires a larger annual income than the current work formerly demanded. There is no doubt that in the postwar world the American Bible Society will be called upon to provide a larger share of the World's Scriptures than in pre-war years. The great literacy campaigns alone will tax the capacities of all the Bible Societies.

It is therefore vitally essential that the increased





*Sunday Services on Guadalcanal*

*U. S. Marine Corps*

income flowing into the War Emergency Fund be preserved and even expanded.

There are now approximately 125,000 Christians who give one dollar or more directly to the American Bible Society and receive the *Bible Society Record*. We suggest each one interest two new friends in giving as they are able in order to make possible seizing the vast opportunities which all of us have been praying will be realized.

Here are some specific suggestions of ways in which members and friends can help in this stupendous task of raising the \$2,800,000 War Emergency Fund:

1. Tell your friends about the need and ask them to make a gift to the Society. Checks should be drawn to the order of the Treasurer, Gilbert Darlington. Show them your copy of the *Record* and tell them that their contribution will bring them the *Record* for a year.
2. Send to the Society for illustrated folders describing the need and distribute them in any group of which you are a member—sewing circle, Bible class, missionary society, women's club, service club, etc. Either group gifts or individual gifts would be helpful.
3. Call together or suggest to some influential leader a meeting of representatives of all Bible classes in your community. The distribution of the Scriptures is an ideal project for groups like these. It would provide an outlet for giving, which is frequently absent in adult classes.
4. Encourage young people's organizations to lend assistance. A good many now use the Society's Read-the-Bible seals as a means to enlist support. Quantities of seals and leaflets will be furnished without obligation.
5. If you live in a city under 50,000, help organize a local committee. Elect officers (including a treasurer) to receive and conduct a personal or mail canvass of a selected list. Stationery and leaflets would be supplied by the Society upon receiving notification of the names of the officers of the committee.
6. If your church has made no gift to the Society's War Emergency Fund either through denominational channels or direct to headquarters, endeavor to secure the participation of your church.

All Bible-lovers will want to respond with their willing service as well as with their own gifts; thus the task will be accomplished.





# Editorial Comment



## BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider  
Distribution of the Holy Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to Francis  
Carr Stifler, Secretary, Bible  
House, Park Avenue and  
57th Street, New York



Vol. 89 NOVEMBER 1944 No. 9

To EDITORS: *The Bible Society Record* invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

### Bible Reading Calendars

**L**AST year at Thanksgiving time the Society sent to many of its friends and members an attractive calendar which includes a plan of daily Bible readings for the year. Extra copies were offered at ten cents each.

So cordial was the response and so evident was the keen interest in having a regular schedule of readings to go by, that the Society has prepared a new calendar with readings for 1945.

These will be put in the mails about November 1, possibly sooner, and extra copies may, as last year, be had at ten cents each as long as the supply lasts. Mailing envelopes and stiffeners are also supplied. More than 10,000 were sent out in this way last year to friends, who used them as Christmas tokens, or gave them to their Sunday school classes and other church groups.

Because of the urgency of this year's War Emergency needs and the increased size of the budget, an appeal for gifts to this fund will accompany the mailing of the calendars. It is hoped that there will be a generous response.

### Appreciative Annuitant

**I**N taking out an Annuity Agreement for herself and husband, Mrs. Edward Carter Perkins writes:

We wish to say that we are happy to have a small share in the work of that great Society; we know something of the wonderful work it does in China, and throughout the years there, it has been a constant satisfaction to have Bibles and Testaments and individual paper-covered copies of the Gospels on hand to give out to the people who came to the hospital and to other folks as well. When it seemed likely that the Japanese would take possession of the city where we worked, we got a good supply of the individual Gospels in the Japanese language so as to have them on hand; and never were they refused by the soldiers and officers. Please find enclosed our signed application and check.

• •

### Christmas Cards!

Friends of the Society will recall that because of the need to conserve paper and the increasing competition in the Christmas card field, we have discontinued this project.

There are still available, however, a limited number of boxes of the cards distributed in 1942. These originally cost \$1.00 per box—but now you may purchase 15 **SCRIPTURE TEXT CARDS WITH ENVELOPES FOR 40c.**

Please send orders with remittance to—

Christmas Card Department  
American Bible Society  
Park Ave. and 57th St.  
New York, 22, N. Y.

• •

**E**NCLOSING a contribution "to help carry on your good work," Lt. Commander C. H. Rice writes: "I was given one of your Bibles while I was out in the New Hebrides Islands. And I enjoyed it so much and received so much consolation from it that I want in a small way to help carry on your very good work."

**F**IRST LIEUTENANT GORDON WALLACE ROSS, to whom the Society recently sent a Gaelic Bible, writes: "I have just received the Gaelic Bible that you were kind enough to send me. Please accept my heartiest thanks for your thoughtfulness. We have an old Gaelic Bible in the family, but I naturally did not want to take it with me. That one belongs at home. The one you sent will go with me wherever I may go, and you may be sure that I shall not readily forget your kindness."

• •

**T**HE annual meeting of the Advisory Council will be held at the Bible House, New York City, on December 5 and 6. Invitations will be sent to fifty denominations. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance by the official representatives of these denominations, before whom will be placed the problems and opportunities facing the Society at this time. The budget for the year 1945 will also be discussed and the counsel of this important gathering sought.

### September Meeting of the Board

**T**HE fifth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-ninth year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York 22, New York, on Thursday, September 7, 1944, at 3:30 o'clock, President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. C. E. Leavers.

The minutes of the fourth stated meeting of the year were approved.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved, and their recommendations adopted.

It was reported that Secretary Ralph Mortensen had arrived in China en route from India.

Copies of the 128th Annual Report covering the work of 1943, just off the press, were presented.

Progress was reported in the plans for Nationwide Bible Reading, Thanksgiving to Christmas.

The meeting was adjourned.



# Officers, Managers and Agencies of the American Bible Society

## President

DANIEL BURKE, LL.D.

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## Secretaries

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Rev. Frederick W. Cropp, D.D. (on leave)  
Frank H. Mann, M.A.  
Rome A. Betts, M.A.  
Rev. Robert T. Taylor, D.D. (Chicago)

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**Secretary for Public Relations**  
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**Secretary for Versions**  
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## Managers

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C. E. Leavers  
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## In the United States—Districts and Depositories

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**Eastern**—New York, North New Jersey  
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**Atlantic**—Pennsylvania, Delaware, South New Jersey  
Rev. G. G. Dilworth, D.D., 701 Walnut St., Philadelphia 6, Pa.  
**Maryland**—Maryland  
Rev. E. C. Powers, D.D., 9 East Franklin St., Baltimore 2, Md.  
**National Capital**—District of Columbia and environs  
Rev. W. L. Darby, D.D., Room 203 McKim Bldg., 1311 Street NW, Washington 5, D.C.  
**South Atlantic**—Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina  
Rev. I. S. McElroy, Jr., Central Nat. Bk. Bldg., Richmond 19, Va.

**Southern**—Georgia, So. Carolina, Florida, Tenn., Alabama, Miss.  
Rev. B. H. Smith, 85 Walton St., Atlanta 3, Ga.  
**Central**—Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky  
Rev. G. B. Cameron, 519 Main St., Cincinnati 2, Ohio.  
**Northwestern**—Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Wis., Minn., N. Dak., S. Dak.  
Rev. Harvey Clark, 35 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago 1, Ill.  
**Southwestern**—Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana  
Rev. Frank W. Langham, 1914 Main St., Dallas 1, Tex.  
**Rocky Mt.**—Colo., Neb., Kan., Utah, Wyo., Mont., Idaho, N. Mex., Ariz.  
Rev. Henry H. Ragatz, 650 Seventeenth Street, Denver 2, Colo.  
**Pacific**—California, Washington, Ore., Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii  
Rev. R. W. Bayless, D.D., 224 McAllister St., San Francisco 2, Calif.

### Divisions of the Haven Memorial Agency among the Colored People of the United States

**Atlanta**—Georgia, So. Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tenn.  
Rev. D. H. Stanton, D.D., 56 Gammon Ave., S. E., Atlanta, Ga.  
**Charlotte**—No. Carolina, Virginia, W. Va., D. C., Maryland  
329 S. Brevard St., Charlotte 1, N. C.

**Cleveland**—Ohio, Pa., N. Y., N. J., Del., Mich., Ind., Ill., Mo., Ky.  
Rev. V. C. Hodges, D.D., 5424 Woodland Ave., Cleveland 4, Ohio.  
**Dallas**—Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas  
Rev. G. A. Hobart Sheppard, D.D., 2549 Elm St., Dallas 1, Texas.

### Depositories—To Which Orders for Scriptures Should Be Sent

**New York City 22**—Bible House, Park Ave. and 57th St.  
**New York, New Jersey, Penna., Del., Maryland, D. C., Virginia, W. Va.**  
**Atlanta 3, Georgia**—85 Walton St.  
**Chicago 1, Illinois**—35 E. Wacker Drive  
**Dallas 1, Texas**—1914 Main St.  
**San Francisco 2, California**—224 McAllister St.

## Foreign Agencies

**West Indies**—Rev. James Innes, Neptuno 629, Havana, Cuba.  
**Mexico**—Sr. H. T. Marroquin, Apartado 1373, Mexico City.  
**Caribbean**—Rev. Raymond R. Gregory, Bible House, Box J, Cristobal, Canal Zone.  
**Upper Andes**—Mr. John Ritchie, Apartado 448, Girón Camaná 836, Lima, Peru.  
**Chile-Bolivia**—Mr. D. C. Brackenridge, Casilla 784, Santiago, Chile.

**La Plata**—Rev. P. Penzotti, Calle Paraná 471, Buenos Aires, Argentina.  
**Brasil**—Rev. Charles W. Turner, Ph.D., Bible House, Avenida Erasmo Braga No. 12, Rio de Janeiro.  
**Bible Lands Agency, North**—Mr. F. Lyman MacCallum, Box 747, Beirut, Syria.  
**Bible Lands Agency, South**—Mr. H. Athanasian, P. O. Box 724, 62 Sharia Ibrahim Pasha, Cairo, Egypt.

**Philippines**—Rev. W. H. Fonger, Box 755, Bible House, No. 636 Isaac Peral, Manila.  
**Thailand (Siam)**—Rev. Robert O. Franklin (on furlough) 703 Sathorn Rd., Bangkok.  
**China**—Rev. J. C. F. Robertson, 54 Hua Hsi Pa, Chengtu.  
**Japan Bible Society**—Mr. T. Tanaka, General Secretary, Bible House, 2 Shichome, Ginza, Tokyo.

### State Bible Societies Cooperating with the American Bible Society

**Maine**—Rev. Hammond I. Peterson, 19 Pine St., Portland 4.  
**New Hampshire**—Edward A. Dame, 24 Warren St., Concord.  
**Vermont**—Rev. Stanley B. Hyde, 189 South Winooski Ave., Burlington.  
**Massachusetts**—Rev. F. K. Singiser, D.D., 41 Bromfield St., Boston 8.

**Connecticut**—278 Farmington Ave., Hartford 5.  
**Rhode Island**—Rev. Selden R. McCurdy, D.D., 144 Westminster St., Providence 3.  
**Maryland**—Rev. E. C. Powers, D.D., 9 E. Franklin St., Baltimore 2.





Official U.S. Marine Corps Photo.

## U.S. CHAPLAINS WANT 400,000 BIBLES!

**Y**ES, U.S. Chaplains tell us that *at least* 400,000 Bibles will be needed during the year beginning July 1, 1944 to take care of our fighting men. And remember, the **MEN WANT BIBLES**—it is evidence of their spiritual awakening and deepening interest in life—a wonderful tribute to the work of the Chaplains.

Will you give 10, 20, 50, a hundred, a thousand? You **CAN** do just that through the American Bible Society.

### Make Your Own Choice

<i>Equip</i>	<i>Costs You Only</i>
One Man	\$0.50
A Squad	6.00
A Platoon	20.00
A Company	80.00
A Battalion	300.00
A Regiment	750.00

In every war since the War with Mexico the American Bible Society has been giving the Bible to our

fighting men. The current need exceeds anything in the Society's history. In addition to 400,000 Bibles, the Society expects to provide 1,800,000 Testaments and 1,500,000 Scripture portions—making a total financial need of \$582,500.

*Everyone knows that the Spiritual needs of our fighting men and women **MUST BE MET**. Help this great work with a contribution **TODAY!***

If you would like the facts of how you can help this great work, and receive a good income for yourself or a friend at the same time, send for the booklet *A Gift That Lives*, which tells of a plan that has helped thousands to gratify a lifelong ambition with a *double profit* to themselves. Send the coupon **NOW!**

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**URGENT! Fill out and mail this coupon TODAY!**

**AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY**

Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York 22, N.Y.

- ☐ Please send me, without obligation, your booklet 62B1 entitled *A Gift That Lives*.  
☐ I enclose \$..... to provide Bibles for the men and women in our armed forces.

Name

Address  Denomination

City  State